

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1887.

Afterwards.

The result of the election shows the necessity of placing in the field a ticket of unexceptionable names. The clean sweep is due, more than anything else, to the fact that the republicans had no personal loads to carry. There was nothing, there could be nothing brought against the personal fitness of the republican nominees. The party was left free, to devote all its energies to the political aspects of the campaign. Many times heretofore, one or more of the nominees have been certain of defeat, in the estimation of unprejudiced people, owing to scandals, incompetency or unpopularity. The last convention did not countenance, for an instant, this sort of folly, and when their work was finished, it was instantly evident, that the enemy were without ammunition for personal attack. Is it too much to hope, that future conventions will be endowed with equal good sense? Essex County is too close to make it safe to turn a political party into a sort of hospital for the cure of infirm reputations.

The magnificent majority for Mr. McGowan, in this Township and District, proves the wisdom of his nomination. The First Assembly District is in the best sort of shape for an aggressive fight next year. Bloomfield's republicans have not been as united and enthusiastic for many a year, and there is no reason to suppose, that anything will arise to disturb this most satisfactory state of affairs in the immediate future. The action of Montclair, in so cordially sustaining Bloomfield's candidate, has been the means of creating much good feeling between these two Townships, which will have a most beneficial effect upon their mutual relations politically and otherwise. The action of Mr. Jackson and his Belleville friends in endorsing energetically, for the election of Mr. McGowan, has been the subject of much pleasant comment on this side of the line and will go far towards establishing good fellowship. It would have been a great misfortune, if anything like permanent ill-feeling had been one of the outcomes of the recent election; but by universal popularity of the Assembly candidate, and the good sense and public spirit of his unsuccessful rival, this danger has been averted and all seems well.

It was a good day for the Republicans when the Third Party Prohibitionists took themselves out of the party. They kept matters in a continual state of turmoil while inside, owing to the amount of noise they made in their endeavors to force upon the party their absurd and impracticable views. Now that they have gone out peace and quiet has existed to an extent that has astonished the great majority remaining behind. Long before they took their departure from the political field, we declared they were the worst enemies of republicanism and temperance and advocated the treating of them as such. With these marplots out of republican councils this party has been able to agree upon methods of lessening the evil which they profess to abhor, but which in fact they are most persistently helping to rattle upon the community. It is a matter for lamentation, that these few people have it in their power from time to time to defeat temperance and trench run in places of power, but if their consciences can stand it, republicans can afford to bide their time.

An Impending Disaster.

One afternoon during the month of September, an incident was made in the Bloomfield cemetery, at which the Rev. J. H. Egbert, pastor of the Watsessing M. E. church, officiated. After the conclusion of the services the reverend gentleman and a party of friends stood on the hill overlooking the cemetery grounds. The conversation turned on "abor vito hedge" with which the grounds are superabundantly stocked. Mr. Egbert declared his opinion to the effect that if a fire ever got headway in the cemetery it would work disastrous havoc; a case was cited where a similar circumstance had occurred.

Last Saturday afternoon the plot owners in the cemetery ran an extremely narrow escape of experiencing a realization of these premonitory forebodings. Every fall it is the custom of boys to build fires in the woods adjoining the western line of the cemetery property. On several occasions the employees of the cemetery company have had to go and put the fires out in order to prevent them from getting into the burial ground. One of these fires was kindled by some mischievous boys last Saturday afternoon; the strong south-westerly wind blowing at the time rapidly carried the flames through the dry leaves and brush, which abounds in that vicinity, into the cemetery. The fire soon took hold of the hedge, which is highly inflammable when thoroughly started. Supt. Smith and his men were soon on the spot and fought the fire with all their energy. It soon became evident that unless assistance was

secured the fire would overpower them. The superintendent hurried down to the Centre and requested assistance of the fire department. Owing to the numerous manifestations of disapproval on the part of members of the department at being called out to brush fires, the authorities were rather reluctant about ordering the department out. In the meantime a number of men and boys from the surrounding neighborhood had come to the assistance of the cemetery men and what had threatened to prove one of the most serious losses that our town had ever suffered, was happily averted.

While the plot-owners may congratulate themselves on having fortunately escaped a disaster that would have caused an inestimable loss and universal grief, the danger is by no means past. The cemetery grounds have been several times threatened with fire on the northerly side owing to the dry grass becoming ignited by sparks from the locomotives. In view of these circumstances it has become a question of deepest importance to every plot-owner as to whether it is prudent to continue these hedges. Rosedale cemetery in Orange and other cemeteries have discarded them for various reasons in addition to that of fire; they harbor insects, they discolor the marble headstones and in a great many instances obscure them altogether.

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